



Welcome to the Clark County Community Development e-News. We send this publication out once a month to announce the latest in what's happening. We will attempt to cover a broad range of topics that we hope will be of interest to you. We need your input! We welcome your comments about our news bulletin; and if you have topics you would like us to cover and we haven't, we'll do our best to accommodate you!★

## Clark County grows up

Until the 1990s, Clark County was a small bedroom community in the Portland metropolitan area. But the 2000 Census and recent real estate investments are telling a new story. Clark County is growing up and becoming an important economic force in the region. [Read the entire article.](#)★

## New program lets people schedule building inspections on the Web

Our first month's experience with scheduling building inspections over the county's Web site has been a great success. This is the first application built by the Information Services Department that actually pierces the county's computer "firewall" and allows people to perform transactions that interact with our Tidemark databases in real time. In ordinary English, this means that builders and contractors, as well as ordinary citizens, can now schedule their

building inspections using our Web site. [Read the entire article.](#)★

## New construction manager focuses on efficiency and customer service

Meet Mike Niemi, the new construction manager in the Community Development Engineering Services Division. On the job since August 2, Mike brings to the county more than 25 years of experience working in construction

management, design, and inspection, both in the public and private sectors. He will act as team leader for the inspection team that oversees construction of privately funded stormwater and transportation improvements for subdivisions, short plats, commercial, industrial, and multi-family residential developments. [Read the entire article.](#)★



## The comprehensive growth management plan update has been adopted, now what?

This is one of those frequently asked questions that seem to be filling up the land use information line lately. While the Board of Clark County Commissioners (BOCC) adoption of the update on September 7, 2004, is a major milestone, whether it is truly over will depend on the type and number of appeals that may be filed over the next two months. After adoption of the 1994 plan, over 60 appeals were filed, which more or less consumed Long Range Planning (LRP) and Prosecuting Attorney staff over the subsequent five years.

## September 2004 Inside:

- ★Clark County grows up
- ★Scheduling inspection on the web
- ★New construction manager
- ★Animal Control has relocated
- ★Firewise
- ★Comp plan update is adopted, now what?
- ★New Faces
- ★Pet safety on Halloween



Even if there are no appeals, pending BOCC review and approval of our five year work plan and our biennial budget, there are several follow-up activities that have been initiated. Most pressing is developing further guidance on removal of urban holding overlay zones that have been applied to all urban growth expansion areas. LRP is preparing a briefing paper for submittal to the BOCC by September 21 that will propose additional guidance for removing the urban holding overlay. We will also be updating the "mixed use" zoning ordinance since we added substantial mixed use land to the urban growth boundaries.

Creating jobs was a priority in the updated comprehensive plan. A focused public investment area analysis was a component of the plan. Priority areas identified by the BOCC include the Hazel Dell/Highway 99 corridor, which is a logical outgrowth and validation of the work the staff has been involved with in the Hazel Dell area. Another priority area is the St. Johns/Barberton area, which presents an opportunity to jump-start development of a major employment area designated in the 1994 comprehensive plan. Utilizing strategic transportation investments and coordinated efforts by other infrastructure providers as catalysts should bring this area up to prime buildable status in a shorter time than if left solely to the market.

Adoption of a long-term land use vision for Section 30 in east Vancouver became effective on September 21. At a work session in February, the BOCC endorsed the general land use concept and directed staff to com-

mence negotiation of an interlocal agreement with the city of Vancouver to flesh out implementation details, including financial equity issues, for the planning subarea. This process is the next major step to implement the land use vision.

Other active projects include:

- Cooperating with the Prosecuting Attorney to develop a Master Plan with Washington State University for the current WSU Agricultural Station south of 78th Street.
- Updating the County's critical area ordinances in cooperation with the County's ESA office and Public Works
- Better linking permit plan functions of the Advantage system with the County's geographic information system, in order to improve Clark County's, and the cities of Clark County's, ability to meet plan monitoring mandates of the Growth Management Act.
- Various neighborhood circulation/road alignment studies in order to deal with access control issues along State Highways and in order to articulate needed cross-circulation facilities in advance of development.

### The Clark County Animal Control office has relocated

The Clark County Animal Control office has relocated to the third floor of the Clark County Public Service Center at 1300 Franklin Street.

All monetary transactions (e.g. purchasing pet licenses) will be handled by the Customer Service Division of Community Development, located on the first floor of the Public Service Center. You can also continue to pur-



### Quick Clicks

- Comprehensive Plan Update
- Data Library
- Team Focus
- Department Calendar

### Divisions

- Animal Control
- Building Division
- Code Enforcement
- Permit Center
- Development Services
- Engineering Services
- Fire Marshal's Office
- Long Range Planning

chase licenses at several locations throughout the county. Please visit the Animal Control section of the Clark County Web site at [www.clark.wa.gov](http://www.clark.wa.gov) for more information on pet licensing, licensing applications and the location of licensing agents in your area.

Phone numbers for services have remained the same:

Complaints (360) 397-2488  
Licensing (360) 397-2489

To contact the SW Washington Humane Society located at 2121 St. Francis Lane, call:

Lost & Found (360) 693-4747  
Adoptions (360) 693-4746  
Education (360) 693-4747 ★

## Firewise

Firewise is a Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) program designed to help homeowners protect their homes from wildfires. This program is of particular interest and concern because the main method for protecting a home from wildfire is by clearing vegetation around the house to maintain a "30 ft. defensible space".

Why should we be concerned? Many homes in Clark County are built close riparian and wetland vegetation. Clearing vegetation in these areas could trigger habitat, wetland, and other permit reviews. It also came to our attention that Clark County Corrections is providing inmate labor to the DNR to complete much of the work. So, as fate would have it, the county was supplying the labor that enabled the state to encourage property owners to cut

riparian and wetland vegetation in direct violation of our own critical areas ordinances! To make matters even worse, some homeowners who had used county labor to protect their homes found themselves the subject of action by Code Enforcement for violating county codes! The Rural Team swung into action to solve these problems before they could get out of hand.

County staff met with the key players in the DNR's Firewise program to discuss our concerns, including the fact that citizens could be fined for violating county codes, a consequence they never considered in the history of their program. The county and DNR agreed that through collaboration both agencies could achieve their goals. DNR agreed to notify the Rural Team Leader when qualified properties volunteered for the Firewise program. In turn, county staff committed to fast track the review of potential sites for critical areas concerns. To do this, staff creates and routes property maps which allow all concerns to be clearly identified for the DNR. The DNR uses county information to either avoid critical areas impacts or to get specific homeowners to obtain permits before their house can be protected under the Firewise program.

Now, the collaboration between DNR and the county allows at risk property owners the opportunity to protect both the critical areas and their property. ★

## What's On TV Tonight?

There is a lot on CVTV (channel 23) about Community Development. For example, you can watch the animal control, land use, and code enforcement hearings, as well as the county's Planning Commission. To see the complete schedule click here: [www.cvtv.org](http://www.cvtv.org) ★

## Expanding our audience

Do you know others who would benefit from this information? Any list serves that would be appropriate for us to post this on? On the other hand, if you would like to be taken off our e-mailing list, just let us know. Contact Désirée at [desiree.demonye@clark.wa.gov](mailto:desiree.demonye@clark.wa.gov). ★





Seated: Jason Jaworsky  
Standing Left to Right: Jesse Birge,  
Richard Walters, Duane Marchand, Michael Selig

## New Faces

Five building inspectors were hired this summer. **Jason Jaworsky** has 30 years of experience in various aspects of the construction industry, including carpentry, contracting, and inspecting. When not working, Jason enjoys hiking, fishing, camping, and coin collecting.

**Jesse Birge** recently completed his Associates of Applied Sciences degree in Building Inspection from Chemeketa Community College. He has a 30 year history in the carpenter trades and has gained experience in building inspection with the Hood River County Building Department. Jesse enjoys camping, golfing, and spending time with friends and family.

**Richard Walters** brings 19 years of construction industry experience to Clark County, seven of which he was self-employed. Richard enjoys dirt biking, camping, fishing, golfing, and softball.

Prior to joining Clark County, **Duane Marchand** worked in the construction industry for 27 years, starting his own business in 1985. Duane enjoys outdoor activities

such as camping, boat races, barbeques and considers himself a "yard fanatic".

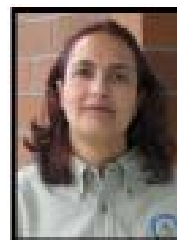
**Michael Selig's** professional background is made up of 25 years in the building industry as a designer, draftsman, and carpenter. In his personal life he enjoys reading, writing, and backcountry backpacking.

**Amber Coonradt** has accepted an Office Assistant II position with Engineering Services. Amber recently completed a five month temporary assignment as an OAIL in the Building Division. Prior to joining Clark County



Amber managed a bridal shop for two years. When not working or spending time with her family, Amber enjoys cooking, painting and sculpting.

**Trisha Kraff** has accepted an Animal Control Officer position. Prior to joining Community Development, Trisha worked as a licensed vet technician for 14 years with Vancouver Veterinary Hospital. Trisha is also an active volunteer with the Feral Cat Coalition. Trisha enjoys spending time with her family, riding ATVs and serving as a volunteer guard at Sand Lake. ★



## Keep your pets safe on Halloween

Halloween is a fun time for everyone, except perhaps, for our pets. Protect your pet during Halloween by keep-

## Changes

### Michelle Wall

who has been a Community Development Specialist has been promoted to building inspector. Congratulations Michelle!



After 14 years of service with Clark County, Fire Marshal **David Lynam** is moving on. David has accepted a position as Division Chief and Fire Marshal for Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue. Although he will be missed, we wish him the best in his pursuit of this new career opportunity. Jon Dunaway has been appointed as the Interim Fire Marshal. ★

ing them at home. A pet that is out with trick-or-treater's can be easily spooked or excited by voices of children. Pets may also be afraid of costumes worn by children or adults causing them to run away from home or possibly bite.

While greeting trick-or-treater's at your home, keep your pet confined and away from the door. This will help prevent your dog or cat from darting outdoors.

If you're a dog owner, remember that your dog may feel that its territory is being invaded by the constant ringing of the door bell or the knocks on your front door and may become anxious or bothered. By keeping him or her away from the front door, you'll help keep your dog calm and prevent it from growling or possibly biting your visiting ghouls and goblins.

Celebrate Halloween with your pet by sharing only goodies that are made specifically for its species, like dog biscuits or cat treats. Additionally, keep the Halloween candy in your house out of your pet's reach. Just like table scraps candy can make your pet quite sick. In fact, chocolate can be fatal to dogs if large amounts are consumed and the animal doesn't get prompt veterinarian care.

Lastly, many animals disappear as pranksters and cultist with darker intentions tease, abduct, torture, or even kill pets. Be especially watchful of black cats, which are frequently targets of cruel activities on Halloween.

All of us at animal control wish you and your pets a safe Halloween. ✨

### ComDev in the News

"Number of fires blamed on arson rises to 14." - The Columbian 9-10-04

[http://www.columbian.com/09102004/front\\_pa/187762.html](http://www.columbian.com/09102004/front_pa/187762.html)

"Two utility pole fires tied to previous arson." - The Oregonian 9-10-04

[http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?base/metro\\_north\\_news/109481738854490.xml](http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?base/metro_north_news/109481738854490.xml)

"Arson investigation looks to drivers." - The Columbian 9-11-04

[http://www.columbian.com/09112004/clark\\_co/188077.html](http://www.columbian.com/09112004/clark_co/188077.html)

"Most recent fire not added to list." - The Columbian 9-12-04

[http://www.columbian.com/09122004/clark\\_co/188182.html](http://www.columbian.com/09122004/clark_co/188182.html)

"Serial arsonist's crimes hurt the innocent." - The Columbian 9-9-04

[http://www.columbian.com/09092004/front\\_pa/187239.html](http://www.columbian.com/09092004/front_pa/187239.html)

"No love for Love Leathers?" - The Columbian 9-9-04

<http://www.columbian.com/09092004/neighbor/187171.html>

"Task force seeks help finding serial arsonist." - The Oregonian 9-9-04

[http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?base/metro\\_north\\_news/1094730999115711.xml](http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?base/metro_north_news/1094730999115711.xml)

"County adopts revised plan for growth." - The Columbian 9-8-04

[http://www.columbian.com/09082004/clark\\_co/186938.html](http://www.columbian.com/09082004/clark_co/186938.html)

"County approves growth plan." - The Oregonian 9-8-04

[http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?base/metro\\_north\\_news/1094645152224680.xml](http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?base/metro_north_news/1094645152224680.xml) ✨



### Community Pride and Building Excellence join forces

The Building Industry Association of Clark County has agreed to join our department in recognizing good construction projects in Clark County.

For several years the department has held the Community Pride Design Awards annual event at the Water Resources Center which is attended by approximately 100 people each year. The BIACC does a similar event called the Building Excellence Awards at the Royal Oaks Country Club. They have about 160 people who attend.

We have decided to join forces and put on a larger (and hopefully grander) program that will include a social hour, dinner, and both of our award programs. Kathi Curtis, who has done a great job with our award program, will be the county's contact person for the event. Her number is (360) 397-2375 ext. 4382. ✨